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be readily verified in almost any laboratory. The parts used are pollen mother-cells, stamen hairs, and shreds of young epidermis, and the method of their treatment is fully explained. In the same volume a synoptical catalogue of the mycologic flora in the neighborhood of Brussels is given by E. Bommer and M. Russeau. It occupies (with full index) some 350 pages.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Bulletin of the California Academy of Sciences. No. 3. February, 1885.

This number is chiefly made up of botanical papers of considerable importance, and contains thirteen botanical plates, most of them colored. Mr. Edward Lee Greene, in a paper entitled "Studies in the Botany of California and Parts Adjacent," describes many new species and some new genera, and gives a synopsis of certain groups. A new *Vancouveria* from Oregon is described, five new species of *Eschscholtzia*, and two new genera of Cruciferæ, *Heterodraba* and *Athysanus.* The former is *Draba unilateralis,* M. E. Jones, and the latter *Thysanocarpus pusillus,* Hook. A synopsis of *Sidalcea* is given with five new species. *Hosackia* is represented by four new species, and *Ribes* by two. A synopsis of *Pentachæta* is given and many new Compositæ described, among which is a new genus called *Crockeria.* The sections *Diplacus* and *Eunanus* of *Mimulus* are raised to generic rank, the latter containing 20 species, and then follows a synopsis of *Mimulus.* The only trouble with regard to certain distinctions drawn under *Mimulus, Eschscholtzia,* etc., is that one must have fresh specimens for determination, a thing so inconvenient as to largely preclude the use of such characters. *Polygonum Douglasii* and *P. Engelmanni* are two new species separated from *P. tenue.*

In the same number, Mary K. Curran gives a list of plants described by Drs. Albert Kellogg and H. H. Behr, with an attempt at their identification.

Mr. E. L. Greene also describes eight new species of the genus *Astragalus.*

Mr. H. W. Harkness gives a list of the Fungi of the Pacific Coast, with descriptions of several new species, and calls attention to certain generic names which are used twice, principally once among phanerogams and again among fungi, such as *Antennaria, Lœstadia, Phyllactinia, Clypeola, Eurotia.* In the last two instances the termination is *um* in the case of the fungus, too close a resemblance, but not so absolutely inexcusable as in the other cases given.

Altogether, the *Bulletin* surprises one with its evidence of great botanical. activity upon our Pacific Coast.

Canadian Filicineæ. Macoun & Burgess. From the Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada. Read May 23, 1884.

This is a sumptuously printed pamphlet of over sixty pages, and is intended to be all that is necessary for a Canadian pteridologist. There are 64 species given, with references to literature, synonymy, descriptions, stations and collectors. A history of the subject, remarks upon distribution, and a short account of the life history of Ferns prefaces the synopsis. Two tables give some interesting views as to distribution. The first is made upon the basis of Mr. Redfield's division of the North American species into six great classes, the 64 Canadian species being distributed as follows: Cosmopolitan, 4; Boreal, 23; Appalachian, 26; Pacific, 10; New Mexican, 1 (*Cheilanthes lanuginosa*); Tropical, 0. Twenty of the species are peculiar to North America. The second table divides the Dominion into five botanical areas, which show the following distribution of species: Atlantic Provinces and Eastern Quebec, 54; Ontario and Western Quebec, 55; the Great Plains to the Arctic Circle, 31; Rocky Mountains, 27; British Columbia, 31.

Contributions to American Botany. XII. By Sereno Watson. Proc. Amer. Acad XX. pp. 324-378. Issued February 21, 1885.

A history and revision of the Roses of North America fills the first half of this contribution. The history is given with that painstaking reference to the literature of the subject so characteristic of Mr. Watson, and from the account of Gosnold's voyage in 1602 to Palmer's *R. Mexicana*, discovered in 1881, we have a complete account of successive discoveries and varying opinions as to the limits and arrangement of species.

In the revision two series are recognized, the one with persistent and connivent sepals, the other with sepals deciduous and spreading. The former is subdivided into two groups, dependent on the presence or absence of infrastipular spines. The armed group are entirely western, extending no farther east than the plains east of the Rocky Mountains. The unarmed group ranges from Colorado to Alaska, and eastward to Hudson Bay and the N. Atlantic States, and may be all called *R. blanda*, or separated into four species, according to the view taken as to the limits of species. The series with deciduous sepals is more general in its distribution. Very little attempt seems to have been made to give synomymy, probably from the fact of its inextricable confusion, but an exceedingly full list of stations and collectors answers really the same purpose, especially to those who have full sets of reports on western botany. The grouping and range is as follows:

I. Sepals connivent and persistent after flowering.

A. Without infrastipular spines.

1. *R. acicularis*, Lindl. (N. Alaska) 2. *R. blanda*, Ait. (Newfoundland to Lake Superior) 3. *R. Sayi*, Schwein. (Colorado to Brit. Am. and Lake Superior) 4. *R. Arkansana*, Porter (W. Texas to Brit. Am.).

B. Infrastipular spines present.

5. *R. Nutkana*, Presl (Idaho and Oregon to Alaska). 6. *R. pisocarpa*, Gray (Oregon and Washington Terr.). 7. *R. Californica*, C. & S. (Oregon and Calif.). 8. *R. Fendleri*, Crepin (from the Rocky Mts. to the Sierras and Cascades). 9. *R. Woodsii*, Lindl. (Col. to Brit. Am. and the Mississippi) 10. *R. minutifolia*, Eng. (Lower California)

II. Sepals spreading after flowering and deciduous.

11. *R. Carolina*, L. (Nova Scotia to Florida and the Mississippi) 12. *R. lucida*, Ehrh. (Newfoundland to N. Y.) 13. *R. humilis*, Marsh. (from the Atlantic to the Mississippi) 14. *R. nitida*, Willd. (Newfoundland to New England) 15. *R. foliosa*, Nutt. (Indian Terr. to Tex.) 16. *R. Mexicana*, Watson (Mexico). 17. *R. setigera*, Mx. (Ontario to Gulf of Mexico) 18. *R. gymnocarpa*, Nutt. (Brit. Col. to W. Montana and California)

It would be possible to reduce these 18 species to 9, as follows, indicated by the numbers given above: 2 (including 1, 3, 4), 5, 9 (incl. 6, 7, 8), 10, 11, 13 (incl. 12, 14), 15 (incl. 16), 17, 18.

The rest of the contribution is given up to the description of new species, chiefly from our western territories Quite a notable new species is a *Picea*, from 100 to 150 feet in height, discovered by Thos Howell at high elevations in the Siskiyou Mountains of California, and dedicated to Prof. W. H. Brewer, as *P. Breweriana.*

Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the New York State Museum of Natural History: Report of the Botanist. 8°. Albany, 1884. pp. 125-164.

Thirty-sixth Report of the same. Albany, 1884. pp. 29–49.

The present reports are for the years 1881 and 1882, respectively. The necessity of less tardy publication has been repeatedly urged by the friends of the museum, but without much apparent result. The public printer will not be hurried. The first of these reports contains the usual variety of interesting notes on New York plants, with descriptions of some forty-five new species of fungi, and one new genus, *Gymnascella*, related to *Ascomyces*. A very valuable feature of the report is the synopsis of N. Y. species of *Lepiota*, with full, specific descriptions and notes.

It has been the custom of Mr. Peck to make a collecting tour to some part of the state each summer, for which he advances the money and is reimbursed by an appropriation by the Legislature. Through some political intrigue this item for 1880 was vetoed by the Governor. Thinking it was not likely to occur again, he advanced the money for 1881, but again it was vetoed. He therefore did not collect in the year following, and in consequence the second of the present reports is shorter than usual and contains no new species. It has, however, a synopsis of the N. Y. species of *Psalliota*, including seven species, the common mushroom, *Agaricus campestris*, being one of them.

These reports, of which about a dozen and a half have now been issued, lose much of their value for want of an index. If a complete and accurate index could be furnished for all now published, botanists would be willing to sacrifice one of the annual reports for it, if need be.